

Abstract of the Disclosure

Wear resistant member comprises a silicon nitride sintered body. Silicon nitride sintered body contains from 75 to 97% by mass of silicon nitride, from 0.2 to 5% by mass of titanium nitride and from 2 to 20% by mass of a grain boundary phase essentially containing Si-R-Al-O-N compound (R: rare earth element). Particles of titanium nitride are 1  $\mu\text{m}$  or less in long axis. Particles of titanium nitride are mainly spherical particles of which aspect ratio is in the range of from 1.0 to 1.2, surface thereof being formed edgeless and roundish. Wear resistant member formed of such silicon nitride sintered body is excellent in strength, fracture toughness and rolling fatigue life. In particular, being excellent in rolling fatigue life, it is suitable for bearing member such as bearing balls.